

The Connecticut Department of Transportation conducted a Public Informational Meeting concerning the proposed widening of U.S. Route 6 from Carol Drive in the City of Bristol to Peggy Lane in the Town of Farmington. An informal question and answer session began at 6:30 p.m. followed by a formal presentation at 7:00 p.m. on November 16, 2011 at Bristol City Hall, in the City Council Chambers.

The proposed improvements would consist of widening U.S. Route 6 from Carol Drive in the City of Bristol to Peggy Lane in the Town of Farmington to address safety concerns and accommodate traffic operational improvements. The limits of construction on Stafford Avenue would extend approximately 450 feet north and 300 feet south of the U.S. Route 6 intersection. The limits of construction on Camp Street would extend approximately 150 feet north and 300 feet south of the U.S. Route 6 intersection. U.S. Route 6 would be widened to add a second eastbound through lane to address congestion, delay, gridlock, and safety concerns. Adjustments to the existing pavement cross-slope, drainage modifications and upgrades, and modification to the existing traffic signals would be required to accommodate the proposed improvements. Partial right-of-way acquisitions on both residential and commercial properties are required. Overhead and underground utility relocations would also be required.

Mr. Robert Ike from the Office of Rights of Way concluded the presentation with a review of the rights of way process.

Public Comments and Questions:

Residents were concerned whether the proposed work is adequate to alleviate congestion and reduce accidents on Stafford Avenue, especially in the vicinity of Elizabeth Road. The Department responded that the purpose of the project is to address safety concerns and ease congestion on U.S. Route 6. The proposed additional eastbound through-lane on U.S. Route 6 would allow more vehicles to flow through the U.S. Route 6/Stafford Avenue intersection to ease congestion, delay, and gridlock at this location. The Department indicated that the limits of construction on Stafford Avenue would be evaluated to determine whether it should be extended to address accidents occurring at the Stafford Avenue/Elizabeth Road intersection. If the limits of construction are extended on Stafford Avenue, additional rights of way impacts should be anticipated. This determination would be coordinated with the City.

The owners of the residential properties between Britton Road and Stafford Avenue were concerned with their ability to safely exit their driveways. The Department had also identified this as a concern. The existing conditions at these driveways include steep slopes, narrow or non-existent roadway shoulders, and inadequate space to place trash collection receptacles. The proposed plans would provide a 2-foot wide roadway shoulder and a 5-foot wide flat grass strip in front of these properties. Additionally, the Department would work with individual property owners to determine feasible solutions to this concern.

There was a concern that the additional eastbound through-lane will promote higher travel speeds within the project limits. The Department indicated that this section of roadway would continue to have the same posted speed limits.

A question was asked about the feasibility of providing a traffic signal at the intersection U.S. Route 6 and Harold Drive in the Town of Farmington. The

Department is aware of a formal request for a traffic signal in this area, and indicated that this area does not appear to warrant a signal.

A question was asked about the Department's procedure for predicting the future volume of traffic expected to use U.S. Route 6. A concern was expressed that once these improvements are made, additional improvements may be required due to an increase in traffic volume. The Department indicated that this project has been designed using projected traffic volumes for 2035.

The public was informed that the project is in the preliminary design phase with final design plans currently scheduled to be completed by September 25, 2013. All attendees were informed that the Department can be contacted should they have any questions regarding this project.

The proposed safety and traffic operational improvements were well received by both the public and City officials attending this meeting.

The meeting ended at approximately 8:30 p.m.